

**COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM
APPLICATION NOW OPEN - DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 18!**

Are you working to support positive change in your country? Preserving biodiversity for the next generation? Creating jobs for at-risk youth? Bridging ethnic and cultural divides? Apply for Community Solutions!

APPLY NOW: Applications must be submitted online at <http://oas.irex.org/csp> by **Friday, November 18, at 12pm EST**. Download the [detailed instructions](#). Review the requirements prior to starting an application to ensure you are eligible. If you have questions after reviewing the instructions, email csp@irex.org.

The Community Solutions Program (CSP) is a year-long professional development program for people working to improve their communities by addressing issues related to the environment, tolerance and conflict resolution, transparency and accountability, and women and gender. For 2017-2018, up to 100 community activists will be selected to participate in the program, which includes:

- **Fellowship in the United States:** Fellows are matched to host organizations throughout the United States, where they complete a four-month hands-on professional experience.
- **Community Leadership Institute:** Fellows participate in the Community Leadership Institute, a leadership training program designed to strengthen their leadership and management skills. The Institute includes face-to-face trainings, online courses, professional coaching, and networking.
- **Community-based initiatives:** While in the U.S., fellows design and plan a community development initiative or project to carry out after they return home.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: The program covers the cost of most expenses associated with: **J-1 visa support; Round-trip travel from your home city to the U.S.; Monthly allowance to cover housing, meals & living expenses in the U.S.; and Accident and sickness insurance.**

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must meet these requirements:

- You are between the ages of 25 and 38 as of January 1, 2017;
- You are living and working in your home country. (Individuals with refugee status working on behalf of their home community may be given special consideration.)
- You have at least two years of experience working on community development, either as a full-time or part-time employee or volunteer;
- You have a high level of English proficiency. Semifinalists will be required to take or submit recent scores for a TOEFL or IELTS English language test.
- You are available to travel to the U.S. for four months from August to December 2017;
- You are **not** a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. and have **not** applied for U.S. permanent residency within the past three years;
- You are eligible to receive a US J-1 visa. Applicants who have participated in an exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Government must have fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement.
- You are **not** currently participating in an academic, training, or research program in the U.S.;
- You are committed to returning to your home country for at least two years after completing the program; and
- You are **not** a current IREX employee or consultant, or their immediate family member.